

That which is claimed:

1. A method comprising:  
  
receiving an interest signal indicating an interest in a hyperlink contained in a first document;  
  
generating a request signal comprising a request for third-party-provided information about a second document associated with the hyperlink;  
  
receiving the third-party-provided information; and  
  
causing the third-party-provided information to be output in association with the first document.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising logging the interest signal.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises user-related information.
- 4.. The method of claim 3, wherein the user-related information comprises query-related information.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a content snippet of the second document.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the content snippet comprises query-related information.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises past-user information.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the past-user information comprises a user-supplied rating of the second document.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the past-user information comprises at least one of: a period of linger time, a quantity of repeat visits, a quantity of repeat queries, and a quantity of click-throughs.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a genre of the second document.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a relationship of the first and second documents.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a measure of the liveness of the second document.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a measure of the disruptiveness of the second document.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a query corresponding to the second document.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a comparison between content associated with the hyperlink and the second document.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a cached representation of a previously-available second document.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the interest signal comprises an indication of a pointing device hovering over the hyperlink.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the interest signal comprises an indication of a right-click of a pointing device on the hyperlink.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in an overlay.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the overlay comprises a tooltip.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a status bar.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a right-click menu.
23. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a pop-up window.
24. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a persistent window.
25. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information with the first document.
26. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises audibly outputting the third-party-provided information.
27. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises outputting the third-party-provided information through a haptic device.
28. The method of claim 1, wherein output in association with the first document comprises outputting a hyperlink associated with a third document, the third document comprising the third-party-provided information
29. A method comprising:

receiving a request signal comprising a request for third-party-provided information about a second document associated with a hyperlink contained in a first document;

retrieving the third-party-provided information; and

generating an information signal configured to cause the third-party-provided information to be output in association with the first document.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising logging the request signal.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises user-related information.

32.. The method of claim 31, wherein the user-related information comprises query-related information.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a content snippet of the second document.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the content snippet comprises query-related information.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises past-user information.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the past-user information comprises a user-supplied rating of the second document.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the past-user information comprises at least one of: a period of linger time, a quantity of repeat visits, a quantity of repeat queries, and a quantity of click-throughs.

38. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a genre of the second document.

39. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a relationship of the first and second documents.

40. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a measure of the liveness of the second document.

41. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a measure of the disruptiveness of the second document.

42. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a query corresponding to the second document.

43. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a comparison between content associated with the hyperlink and the second document.
44. The method of claim 29, wherein the third-party-provided information comprises a cached representation of a previously-available second document.
45. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in an overlay.
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the overlay comprises a tooltip.
47. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a status bar.
48. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a right-click menu.
49. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a pop-up window.
50. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information in a persistent window.

51. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises displaying the third-party-provided information with the first document.

52. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises audibly outputting the third-party-provided information.

53. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises outputting the third-party-provided information through a haptic device.

54. The method of claim 29, wherein output in association with the first document comprises outputting a hyperlink associated with a third document, the third document comprising the third-party-provided information.

55. A computer-readable medium on which is encoded program code, the program code comprising:

program code for receiving an interest signal indicating an interest in a hyperlink contained in a first document;

program code for generating a request signal comprising a request for third-party-provided information about a second document associated with the hyperlink;

program code for receiving the third-party-provided information; and

program code for causing the third-party-provided information to be output in association with the first document.



56. The computer-readable medium of claim 55, further comprising program code for logging the interest signal.

57. A computer-readable medium on which is encoded program code, the program code comprising:

program code for receiving a request signal comprising a request for third-party-provided information about a second document associated with a hyperlink contained in a first document;

program code for retrieving the third-party-provided information; and

program code for generating an information signal configured to cause the third-party-provided information to be output in association with the first document.

58. The computer-readable medium of claim 57, further comprising program code for logging the request signal.